

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1 - 28 are pending. Applicants cancel claims 3, 5, 11, 21 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6 - 10, 12 - 15, 19, 20 and 23 - 28. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, with reference to Applicants' specification at page 7, line 13 through page 8, line 1 and page 13, line 22 through page 16, line 1.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) mailed April 21, 2006 was not considered by the Examiner, as the IDs failed to provide a listing of documents disclosed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(a). Applicants submit a corrected Supplemental IDS that includes the required listing of documents disclosed, and respectfully request that the corrected Supplemental IDS be considered by the Examiner.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 - 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,059,289 to Vancura ("Vancura"). Applicants cancel claims 3, 5, 11, 21 and 22 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 2, 4, 6 - 10, 12 - 15, 19, 20 and 23 - 28. Applicants submit that the rejection of canceled claims 3, 5, 11, 21 and 22 is moot, and respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 6 - 10, 12 - 20 and 23 - 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In each of amended independent claims 1, 7, 8 and 17, Applicants claim a game/slot machine, computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for providing a game, or method for providing a game that includes both a normal game and a bonus game. According to claimed device, apparatus or method, a continuously changing display of symbols is stopped to statically display a plurality of bonus symbols during the play of the normal game. When the plurality of bonus symbols meets a condition for starting the bonus game, a possible payout value is determined as a plurality of independent values, each of which is displayed with one of the plurality of bonus symbols on the display before the bonus game starts. In this manner, a player is made aware of a specific set of values, one of which will be awarded as the payout value upon completion of the bonus game (see, e.g., page 2, lines 17 - 21 of Applicants' specification).

Vancura discloses a game machine having a primary slot machine for playing a principal game, and a secondary slot machine for playing a bonus game (see, e.g., abstract of Vancura). Upon the occurrence of a bonus-qualifying event, a player is able to operate the secondary slot machine to determine and accumulate displayed point values until a lose game or end game symbol is received to terminate the bonus game. In sharp contrast to Applicants' claimed game/slot machine, computer-readable medium and method, the game machine of Vancura does not display a possible payout value provided as a plurality of independent values, each of which is displayed with one of a plurality of bonus symbols in a display region before the start of the bonus game. Rather, in the game machine disclosed by Vancura, potential payout values are arguably produced and displayed only after the player begins to play the bonus game, on the secondary slot machine. Moreover, Vancura's game does not display each of a plurality of payout values with one of a plurality of

bonus symbols, as Vancura's bonus symbols are displayed on the primary slot machine while the payout values are displayed on the secondary slot machine.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Vancura fails to anticipate each and every element of Applicants' invention as claimed in amended independent claims 1, 7, 8 and 17, and that amended independent claims 1, 7, 8 and 17 are therefore allowable. As claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12 - 16, 18 - 20 and 23 - 28 each depend either directly or indirectly from one of allowable claims 1, 8 and 17, Applicants further submit that dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12 - 16, 18 - 20 and 23 - 28 are also allowable for at least this reason.

Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1, 2, 4, 6 - 10, 12 - 20 and 23 - 28 be withdrawn.


CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below once he has reviewed the proposed amendment if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

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